

FEUD OF EXPLORERS AROUSSES SCIENTISTS

Critics Surprised at Peary's
Branding of Dr.
Cook.

MAY FORCE SOCIETY TO ALTER PLANS

Organization Had Planned Triple
Banquet of Honor.

"The Peary-Cook controversy cannot last long. It has now reached the point where Dr. Cook must present his data. It can be safely said that there are no scientists who doubt Commander Peary. Lay the astronomical data of the two men before any body of disinterested scientists and it will require but a short time to decide whether one or both men have discovered the North Pole."

This statement, by Dr. Henry Gannett, vice president of the National Geographic Society, and a prominent local scientist, connected with the Geological Survey, may be said to reflect the prevailing opinion in the Capital's scientific circles today.

Although none of those seen wanted to be placed in the attitude of openly discrediting Dr. Cook's story, it was readily admitted that there existed no disposition on the part of Washington scientists to disbelieve Commander Peary.

The National Geographic Society, according to its president, Prof. Willis L. Moore, is in a "waiting" attitude. The society does not propose to become involved in the Cook-Peary controversy; not at this juncture, anyway.

"I would not care to comment upon the respective claims of Dr. Cook and Commander Peary," said Prof. Moore. "The action taken at the meeting of the board of directors of the society, held yesterday, indicates our position. We are waiting for the two explorers to present their proofs. It will then be time to act upon the respective merits of the data submitted."

Genuine Surprise.
An exclamation of surprise came from every one to whom was shown this morning the cablegram from Commander Peary, in which he makes the bold statement that Dr. Cook has not been to the North Pole.

"That is not only interesting, but exciting," said Secretary O. P. Austin, of the Geographic Society, and chief of the Bureau of Statistics, Department of Commerce and Labor. "It is impossible for us to arrive at any decision until we have more data."

"I stand by the action of the society yesterday. You will note that we decided to take no action at this time upon the respective claims of Dr. Cook and Lieutenant Peary. We called Commander Peary our congratulations in reply to his telegram saying that he had discovered the Pole. Dr. Cook did not communicate with the society and hence no telegram was forwarded him. Both men are members of the society and it will await with interest a report of the observation and the detailed story of the reported discovery."

Dr. Gannett, perhaps, was the most outspoken of the scientists who read with the most evident interest the word cabled on the latest phase of the puzzling matter.

"I note your message says that 'few scientists doubt Peary.' You can make it stronger than that. No scientists doubt Peary's story. His stories of former explorations have always been found correct and he is a man who understands his business."

Doubt Cook.

"There is, as is well known, considerable doubt in the scientific world here and elsewhere about Dr. Cook, in the absence of positive proof from him and in the face of his statements that his Polar records have been left behind in the care of another. It seems to me now that Dr. Cook must act at once and prove his claims or become discredited. The world will demand it."

"Could anyone make a statement of observations bearing out a contention that the Pole had been reached?" Dr. Gannett was asked.
"It is possible for a clever astronomer to do this," he replied. "A man understanding the conditions of the sun each day might be able to compile a record that on its face would indicate that it had been made at the Pole itself. This would not be able to do, however, under the scrutiny of men who are versed in such matters and inaccuracies as to the position of the sun, geographical data, and Polar conditions would be bound to be discovered."

Asked the direct question whether the men of research of Washington had accepted without question Dr. Cook's reported discovery, Dr. Gannett said: "Scientists talk more freely among themselves than for publication. They do not deny the fact, however, that in many quarters there exists a disposition to doubt Cook until he furnishes the proofs."

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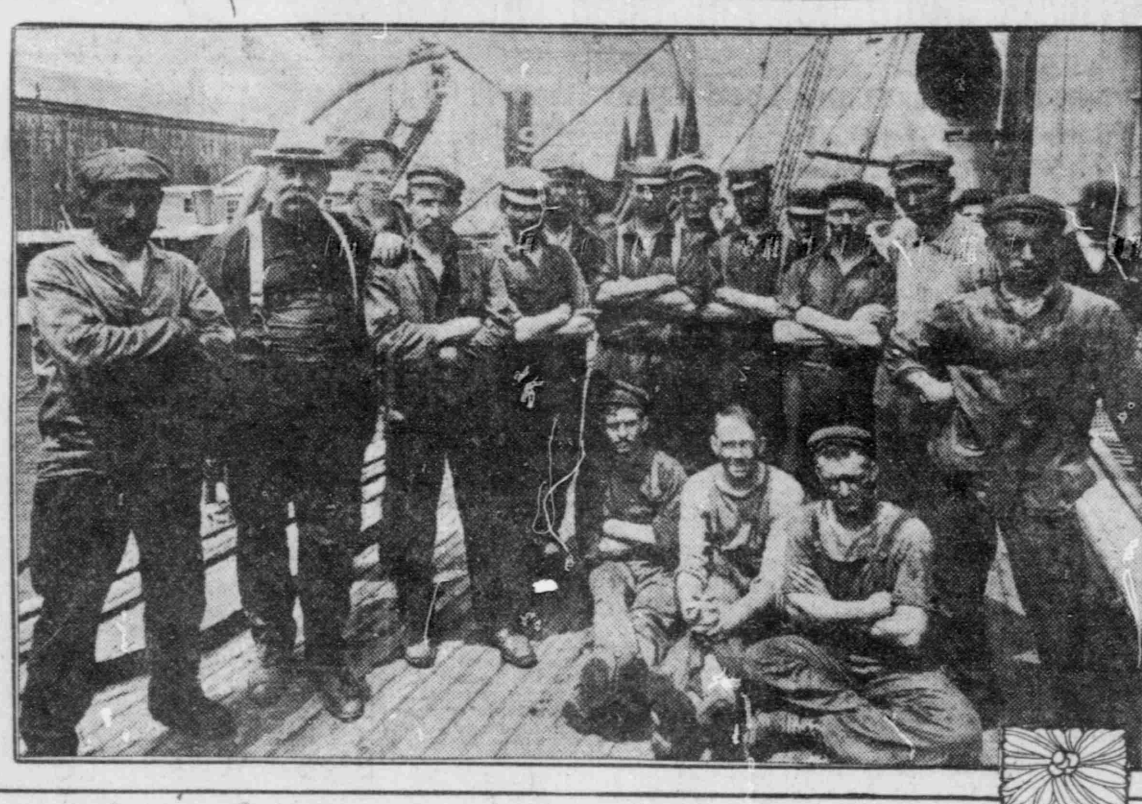
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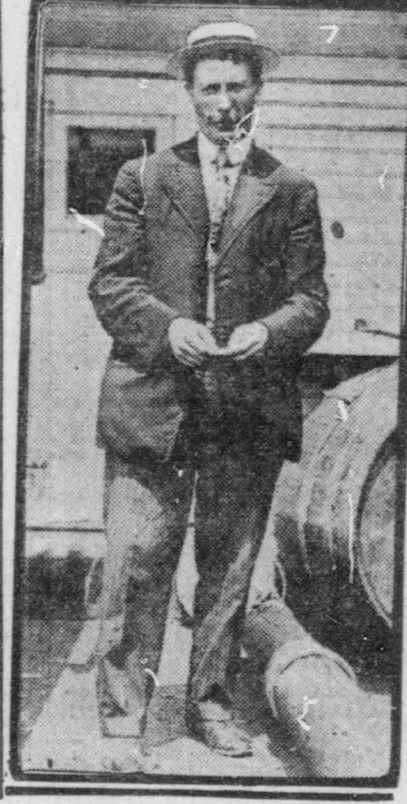
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CAPTAIN BARTLETT.

tion to doubt Dr. Cook until he furnishes the proofs."

The unanimity with which Capital savants seem inclined to pin their faith absolutely to anything that Lieutenant Peary says makes their attitude as between the two men all the more in contrast.

May Change Plans.
A member of the National Geographic Society would not agree exactly that that organization, figuratively speaking, was "up in the air" about the whole North Pole matter, but the fact that the tentative plans for the annual dinner, at which it was originally planned to have Dr. Cook, Lieutenant Peary and Lieutenant Shackleton, has been for the moment sidetracked lends an additional element of local uncertainty.

Most diplomatic was the action taken by the society at its special meeting yesterday. Diplomatic also in wording was the cablegram sent to Commander Peary. The word "discovered" is not used, and a careful perusal of the telegram discloses no expression that can cause the society of "taking sides." The formal statement of the meeting is as follows:

"The board of managers of the National Geographic Society today decided to accept the telegram from Commander Peary announcing his success in reaching the Pole, today sent the following reply:

"Commander Robert E. Peary, 'Chateau Bay, Labrador.'
"In answer to your telegraphic report to this society that you have reached the North Pole, the National Geographic Society, through the action of its board of managers today, extends to you its heartiest congratulations on your great achievement."

The message was signed by President Willis L. Moore and Secretary O. P. Austin.
S. S. Gannett, topographer for the Geological Survey, is another Washington scientist who believes Commander Peary's attack upon the Cook story makes it imperative that Dr. Cook should make public his proofs at once.

"The cloud of doubt that was cast over Dr. Cook's reported feat in reaching the summit of Mount McKinley naturally adds to the skepticism at this time," he said. "Peary, on the other hand, has never been doubted and his statements are accepted more readily. It is going to be an interesting controversy."

Of Little Importance.

Dr. R. S. Woodward, president of the Carnegie Institution, still declines to accept the theory that the discovery of the Pole, no matter by whom accomplished, is of such supreme importance to the real scientific world. The Pole, he says, offers no opportunity for research and its discovery is of little importance to the scientific world.

Died.
FOLLANSBEE—On Tuesday, September 7, 1909, SARAH C. widow of Joseph Follansbee, died at her residence, 123 1/2 street northeast, at the age of 84 years.

HICKERSON—On Tuesday, September 7, 1909, at his residence, 123 1/2 street northeast, WILLIAM T. husband of Florence Hickerson, died at the age of 64 years.

HINDMARSH—On Tuesday, September 7, 1909, at 7:35 p. m., at her residence, 129 Maryland avenue northeast, CLARA GASSAWAY, widow of Henry Edward Hindmarsh, died at the age of 74 years.

MULROE—On Tuesday, September 7, 1909, at 5:30 p. m., JOHN E. infant son of Martin and Mary Mulroe (nee Gail), died at the age of 1 year and 10 months.

MURPHY—On Tuesday, September 7, 1909, at 10:25 p. m., MARY E. MURPHY, widow of the late James H. Murphy, died at the age of 74 years.

JOHNS—On Tuesday, September 7, 1909, at 11:45 a. m., EMMA L. JOHNS, passed into life eternal at her residence, in Ottumwa, Iowa.

Funeral Friday, September 10, 1909, at 1:30 p. m., from her late residence, (Baltimore and Philadelphia papers please copy.)

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unusual. He expressed no surprise when told that a controversy already had arisen between Peary and Cook, intimating that it was to be expected. The great interest was displayed today by officials of the State, Navy and War Departments in the dispatch received by the United Press from Commander Peary practically branding Dr. Cook as a faker. They were somewhat astonished that Peary would commit himself so strongly in advance of an examination of it. All regret it that a controversy was inevitable.

To Be Honored.
The question of governmental recognition of Commander Peary's exploit, provided he proves his claim of priority in the discovery of the North Pole, is now being discussed here.

The Geological Society and chief of Congress may present him with a

medal, and it may increase his rank to that of captain. It can not make him a rear admiral, for there is no such rank in the Civil Engineers' Corps, in which he holds his commission. In addition to these possible honors, it is likely that President Taft and the Secretary of the Navy will commend him in official letters.

Today's startling dispatch from Indian Harbor served on the one hand to clinch the doubts of the few who from the first had been just a bit dubious about Cook's alleged discovery, and on the other to confirm in the minds of the pronounced Peary adherents, especially in the Navy, their belief that all the honors should go to him. The general view of the extraordinary situation thus presented is, however, that judgment should be suspended until a competent jury of scientists shall have passed upon the claims of the rival explorers.

THE DIVORCE.
"What disposition is made of the children of the couple?"
"They will spend six months with the servants of each parent."—Puck.

ARCTIC CLUB PLANS TO PROTECT COOK

NEW YORK, Sept. 8.—The executive committee of the Arctic Club of America will meet tonight to outline a plan of campaign to protect their club mate, Dr. Cook, from the attacks of Commander Peary.

They will also arrange details for a huge dinner to be given to Dr. Cook upon his arrival in New York.

LAST TRIBUTES PAID TO OLDEST CITIZEN

GRAFTON, W. Va., Sept. 8.—All Marion county will today do honor to Joseph Reed, its oldest citizen, whose funeral will take place at Boothsville. Mr. Reed, who was ninety-two years old, met General Lafayette when he visited this country as the guest of Albert Gallatin, of New York, the father of the American currency system. Mr. Reed is survived by his wife, eighty-two years old, and nine children.

EXPLORERS' CLUB PEARS FROM PEARY

"Had Pleasure to Represent
Club at North Pole,"
Cables Explorer.

NEW YORK, Sept. 8.—Henry Collins Walsh, editor of the Travel Magazine, and secretary of the Explorers' Club, of New York, of which Commander Peary is the president, today received the following cablegram from Peary:

"Indian Harbor, via Cape Ray, Sept. 8.
"Henry C. Walsh,
"Secretary Explorers' Club:
"Had pleasure to represent Explorers' Club at North Pole."
"PEARY."

Walsh was told of the subsequent cablegram from Commander Peary in which he urged that Dr. Cook be not taken seriously.

He declined to comment on the cablegram, other than to express regret that such a controversy was imminent, and to say that both Cook and Peary were his personal friends and he could not take sides.

SVERDRUP DEFENDS ATTITUDE OF COOK

COPENHAGEN, Sept. 8.—"Dr. Cook is amply prepared to demolish Commander Peary at the proper time. He has scientific ammunition with which he can riddle every accusation that Peary, in his disappointment at not being the first to reach the Pole, may make."

This statement was made today by Capt. Otto Sverdrup, the foremost Arctic authority in Denmark. Sverdrup has been a warm defender of Cook from the first, and his acceptance of the doctor's statements, after an examination of the data presented by the latter, did as much as any other thing to establish Dr. Cook in the esteem of the Danish scientists.

"You consider, then, that Dr. Cook has proofs to establish his claims beyond the question of a doubt?" Sverdrup was asked.
"There is no doubt of it in the world," Sverdrup replied. "He will yet make Peary admit his claims."

Sverdrup said Peary's charges involve either a malicious falsehood or inexcusable ignorance.
"He evidently saw the wrong Eskimos. But at I prefer to take Rasmussen's word, who said that all the Eskimos knew that Cook reached the Pole," he said.
The reception accorded the explorer at this meeting was warm and cordial, but the net result of this two hours before the society, it is believed here, will be to weaken the public's confidence.

CAPT. OSBORN FIRES HOT SHOT AT PEARY

Member of Arctic Club "Hits
From Shoulder" in
His Attack.

NEW YORK, Sept. 8.—"Any one who knows anything of Peary's reputation and character knows him to be an egotist who would stop at nothing to overcome the advantage gained by an adversary," said Capt. R. S. Osborn, of the Arctic Club, when asked his opinion of the controversy between Dr. Cook and Commander Peary.

"It is a good thing that Peary is making a little of his own statements now," he continued, "for it will bring out all the proofs and evidence and will eventually show him up in anything but an enviable light."

"The criticisms against Dr. Cook are childish and especially the one censuring him for not giving out his proofs in his lecture before the royalty of Denmark. The only recompense that an Arctic explorer gets for his trouble and expense is the money he makes in his writings and lectures. I think he would be a fool to give out his knowledge for nothing, after he has practically beggared himself in obtaining it."

"The so-called scientists who claim that Cook would not know when he had discovered the Pole are the silliest of the crowd. It is the simplest thing in the world to take observations, and Dr. Cook is an expert in that line."
"Peary's cable advising people not to believe Cook's assertion shows a remarkable lack of manliness, and Dr. Cook's answer is just the reverse."

"Anybody conversant with Peary's methods, knows that he is an absolute liar in his Polar regions and even the Eskimos fear and hate him. Eskimos who have once been on an expedition with him always refuse to go again, and he is always forced to go up with new men."

"For twenty years Peary has been begging from the public his finance his schemes, and has beggared himself like Dr. Cook? No, he has not. He is a wealthy man, and owns a big estate on Eagle Island."
"Peary says that Cook used his dogs. Nonsense! Those dogs don't belong to Peary. They are trained by the natives, and are for sale to the first man who offers to buy them."

QUITE A FROST.

Mrs. Peck—I don't know what we'll do to keep our provisions cool now; the ice is so high we can't afford to take any more.

Mr. Peck—Now looky here, Mary, just put your stuff in the furnace. If it's as cold now as it was last winter, you don't need to worry anything about the scarcity of ice.—Boston Herald



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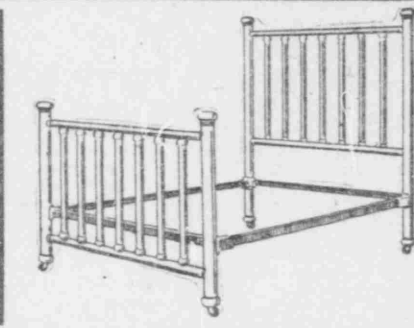
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